



Written Statement: House Hearing, Nov. 9, 2021

<p>Presenters:</p> <p>Anne Hill, Alex Weddon, Kathy McClinchey, and Patrice Johnson</p> <p>Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections</p> <p>https://pureintegritymichiganelections.org, purintegrityforme@gmail.com</p> <p>In support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eaton County Republican Women's Alliance	<p>Before the Michigan House Standing Committee on Elections and Ethics, USPS report</p> <p>Representative Ann Bollin, Chair</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021, 12:00 p.m., Room 326, House Office Building, Lansing, MI</p> <p>Committee Clerk, Amy Rostkowycz, (517) 373-1260, arostkowycz@house.mi.gov</p>
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Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections is a grassroots group composed of more than 500 supporters, located across the state and primarily in Ingham, Eaton, and Jackson counties. In order to achieve its mission, to help restore election integrity to Michigan Elections, PIME analyzes current election bills and laws with an eye toward closing gaps and opportunities for abuse by those who would undermine free and fair elections. We appreciate our legislators' hard work and seek to work alongside them to achieve maximum transparency, checks and balances, ethics, and integrity in election law. PIME is a peaceful, issue-based, nonpartisan political movement that welcomes all who support election integrity and the US and Michigan Constitutions.

Issue:

From PIME supporter Anne Hill:

In the Fall of 2020, Michigan State University had closed most of its dormitories. No one was living there, and the post office would not be able to deliver applications for ballots or actual ballots. However, the attached spreadsheet shows a sample of individuals whose residence is one of these closed dorms. This sampling includes less than half of the closed dormitories had absentee (ABS) voters at their dormitory address.

In the Fall of 2020, Michigan State University had closed most of its dormitories. No one was living there, and the post office would not be able to deliver applications for ballots or actual ballots. However, as the attached spreadsheet shows, a sampling of less than half of the closed dormitories shows absentee (ABS) voters with addresses at these closed dorms.

Based on the East Lansing City Clerk's FOIA'd file of who voted in East Lansing, 51 of these students received applications and ballots even though they were not living there.

One student voter lists a home residence in Canada.

As a point of note, the less than 50 percent sampling assumes that in each of the open dorm halls had a 100% accuracy rate in the Qualified Voter File, but many people in the analyzed dorms had graduated several years ago and moved away, yet they still show on the QVF. Several show that they are still voting in person and absentee.

Questions:

1. What security measures are in place to ensure that valid absent ballot applications as submitted via the mail originate from the actual, registered voter?
2. Regulations prevent the USPS from delivering mail to unnamed recipients on post office boxes. What are the security measures when delivering to a multi-resident facility like a dorm?
3. Are there any security measures to prevent mail delivery of ballot applications and ballots to students who no longer reside in dorms?
4. Did the USPS deliver ballot applications and ballots to deceased and no-longer-current post-office box holders?
5. Legislators and SOS: What QVF procedures are in place to remove graduate, dropout, or moved students from campus voter rolls?

Issue:

From PIME supporter Anne Hill:

Fifty (50) registered voters claim to live on Cherry Lane, a street demolished over 10 years ago when a new development was built. There is no street in East Lansing named Cherry Lane. However, of the 50 people that are on the Qualified Voter File as living there, **15 of them voted** absentee in the Nov. 3 General Election.

The clerk told Anne Hill that these voters could be military. But the ages of these voters indicate they cannot be military. Based on their years of birth, only one of these voters was under the age of 26. Of the remaining 14 voters, 1 was in his 30s, 2 were in their late 40s, 4 were in their 50s, 5 were in their 60s, and 2 were in their 70s. In total, half were past the military's mandatory retirement age of 64.

(To see all QVF persons with a Cherry Lane address, just unfilter column B.)

Questions:

1. Some of the 50 voters listed as living on the non-existent Cherry Lane have no other address on the QVF, so how is it the applications and ballots were delivered?

2. How many absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots were delivered to nonexistent streets and to people who no longer reside at those addresses?

Issue:

A common complaint is that absent voter ballot applications and ballots were delivered to deceased registered voters and to voters who had relocated in and out of state. We understand that mail is delivered to rural mailboxes based on the address, not based on the name of the addressee.

Alex Weddon's daughter had moved out of state more than eight years ago, yet she received an absent ballot application. The United States Post Office's National Change of Address database would have shown she was not residing at this address and had changed her address to California.

PIME supporter Larry Angus wrote, "My cousin Lori who lives in South Carolina for about 10 years got a ballot [app] in the mail from [SOS] Benson in the last presidential election. How can this be? Lori could have voted twice in the 2020 election, and no one would have known. This is wrong. Students attending Michigan State who live in other states could also have voted twice in the election. Did Peters (our national senator) win his election because of this double voting?"

Questions:

1. Why weren't these ballot applications marked as undeliverable and returned to the secretary of state?
2. How many ballot applications were delivered to households in which children or prior residents no longer lived there?
3. How many applications for ballots and ballots were delivered to fraternities and sororities and dormitories and hotels and apartments?
4. How many ballot applications were forwarded to people who had relocated out of state or elsewhere within the state?
5. How many students and multi-resident homeowners were delivered absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots in more than one state?
6. How many ballots were delivered to clerks from nonexistent, nonresident, and non-citizen persons?

Issue:

From PIME supporter Susan Kokinda:

"I own a rental property at 8908 Manor, Allen Park, MI 48101. Last year, the tenants received an absentee ballot application for the former owner, Daniel Flynn. Mr. Flynn moved to Florida in 2017 and passed away prior to 2020."

Questions:

1. Why wasn't this ballot application marked *undeliverable* and returned to the secretary of state?
2. How is chain of custody preserved throughout mailing processes?
3. How many ballot applications and ballots were delivered to deceased voters?
4. How many applications for ballots and ballots were delivered to incorrect locations where voters no longer resided?
5. How many students and multi-resident homeowners were delivered absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots in more than one in-state or out-state location?
6. How many ballots were delivered to clerks from deceased, nonresident, and non-citizen persons?

Issues:

From Senator Ruth Johnson's office Jan. 5, 2021:

“When I was Secretary of State I removed 1 in 6 names on the Qualified Voter File using a variety of techniques to remove individuals who were deceased, moved out-of-state, or non-citizens. But, I wasn't using this as a mailing list as our current Secretary of State who has failed to even purge the known and eligible records of individuals who are likely not qualified to vote in our state prior to sending her May mailing.”

Sen. Johnson's letter cites:

1. Specific allegations from affidavits and testimony (e.g. sequential ballots appearing with the same signature all from Goddard Street).
2. Groups encouraging college students to register and vote in Michigan even if they maintain primary residence and may vote in another state.
3. Ensuring through appropriate legislative oversight that the 500,000+ returned absentee ballot applications are handled appropriately to put these records in the Qualified Voter File into the countdown process if appropriate, so they may be removed after two federal election cycles if these individuals no longer reside at the registered address.

“I have asked for subpoena power several times going back to the spring of 2020 for the Elections Committee to investigate many actions and changes made by Michigan's current Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson which I feel threaten the integrity of our elections, including:

1. Failing to purge records identified through interstate crosscheck as likely no longer eligible to vote in Michigan which have gone through two federal election cycles without activity.
2. Creating an online absentee ballot application which is not signed by a voter as required by law.
3. Instructing clerks to issue absentee ballots to individuals flagged in the QVF to be verified for reasons such as surrendering their license to another state based on a signature comparison alone with no further inquiry to determine the eligibility of the voter.

PIME Recommendations:

1. The secretary of state currently allows online registration to vote. This needs to stop. It is in violation of Michigan statutes that require actual, handwritten signatures. Online voter registration makes it possible for a person to register and vote without ever being seen by an election official. No one, least of all the US Postal Service, can ensure safe and secure elections under these circumstances.
2. Absent voter ballot applications via mail should contain a photocopy of a valid and current state identification. These applications should require an individual’s actual signature, which is checked against the QVF. The clerk needs these tools to verify identity. The Post Office is not designed or structured to provide secure delivery of ballot applications or ballots.
3. Systems need to be put into place to enable a clerk to run specified cross checks. Absent ballot applications on college campuses and elsewhere should be cross-checked for citizenship and to eliminate potential vote duplication in the student’s home state of residence.
4. The citizenship of voter registrants appears to be insufficient. Lacking proper documentation, it is unacceptable for people simply to sign and “attest” to citizenship. Attestation is not verification. The adage *trust but verify* should be the law when it comes to citizens registering to vote.
5. Only the local clerk should be allowed to circulate applications for absentee ballots.
6. A complete forensic audit of the 2020 election, and forensic audits of all future elections are required to identify and remedy additional risks to vote integrity.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrice Johnson, Chair, Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections	Katherine Schmidt and Libby Ranshaw, Eaton County Republican Women’s Alliance
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Attachments:

- A. 11.08.2021 People who should not have received ABS ballot apps.xlsx
- B. 11.08.2021_Cherry_People who should not have received ABS ballot apps.xlsx
- C. Sen. Ruth Johnson’s memo Jan. 5, 2021
- D. USPS hearing PIME supporter statements Nov. 8, 2021